

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS

DETAINED MISSIONARY



This is a photo taken in Dec. 2009 of missing American missionary Robert Park and released by his parents at the Palomar Korean Church Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009, in San Marco, Calif.

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SPORTS NEWS
LEACH OUT



In this Oct. 18, 2008 file photo, Texas Tech head coach Mike Leach during an NCAA college football game against Texas A&M in College Station, Texas. Texas Tech has fired football coach Mike Leach.

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	Price of a barrel of petroleum
	US\$ 79.28
	↑0.41

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2009 was bad for America, Americans

According to AP-GfK Poll:

CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For all their differences, Americans largely agree on two things:

2009 was a lousy year for the U.S., and 2010 is likely to be better.

Nearly three-fourths of Americans think 2009 was a bad year for the country, which was rocked by job losses, home foreclosures and economic sickness. Forty-two percent rated it “very bad,” according to the latest AP-GfK poll.

That’s clearly worse than in 2006, the last time a similar poll was taken.

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In this April 9, 2009 file photo, thousands of unemployed people wait in lines for buses to a job fair at the Mall of New Hampshire parking lot in Manchester, N.H. For all their differences, Americans largely agree on one thing: 2009 was a lousy year for the nation, which was rocked by job losses, home foreclosures and a sick economy. Nearly three-fourths of Americans think 2009 was a bad year for the country, and 42 percent rated it “very bad,” according to the latest AP-GfK poll.

Associated Press

Marriott opens 2010 on the beach with the famous Aruban band OREO



PALM BEACH – Aruba Marriott is closing 2009 and opening 2010 with a fabulous New Years Eve Beach Party at the Resort’s Tradewinds Beach. This party will start at 10 PM till 1 AM in the morning. The Aruban band OREO starring famous lead singer Claudius Phillips will make sure that everybody has a

blast at this party.

Last year this beach party was a great success and this year it is promised to be even bigger. The decoration will be done by Fernando Mansur of Mosaic featuring an amazing light show, an exclusive champagne bar with extravagant and creative decorations.

Tickets are available in the lobby of the Aruba Marriott Hotel daily from 10 AM – 4 PM for only \$15.00. Besides a champagne bar there will be also an assortment cash bar, so everyone can enjoy their favorite drinks during this festive night under the stars.

To welcome 2010 at exactly 12 AM there will be a magnificent firework show with party favors. The NYE party is taking place at the Tradewinds Beach, situated in front of Marriott’s La Vista restaurant and next to Vela Windsurf Center, located in Palm Beach. To access the beach party you will need to cross the hotel Lobby and Resort’s pool area. From there you’ll find directions that will lead you to the entrance of the beach party.

Tickets are selling very fast, therefore if you want to open 2010 in a unique style with a nice ambiance and great music get your tickets now and join us at the Tradewinds Beach for the last beach party of 2009 and the first one in 2010. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate. ☐

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In this Feb. 23, 2009 file photo, a home is seen in San Antonio, facing imminent foreclosure without assistance. For all their differences, Americans largely agree on one thing: 2009 was a lousy year for the nation, which was rocked by job losses, home foreclosures and a sick economy. Nearly three-fourths of Americans think 2009 was a bad year for the country, and 42 percent rated it “very bad,” according to the latest AP-GfK poll.

2009

Continued from Front Page

The survey that year found that 58 percent of Americans felt the nation had suffered a bad year, and 39 percent considered it a good year.

Fewer than half as many people, 16 percent, said their family had a “very good year” in 2009 as said that in 2006. Behind the gloominess, however, are more hopeful views that seem to reflect Americans’ traditional optimism or, perhaps, wishful thinking.

Even though most said it was a bad year for the country, three in five Americans said their own family had a good year in 2009, while about two in five called it a bad year.

Some 72 percent of Americans said they’re optimistic about what 2010 will bring for the country. Even more, four in five, are optimistic about what the year will bring for their families.

Curiously, however, nearly two-thirds think their family finances will worsen or stay about the same next year.

Mari Flanigan is one of those who feel fairly optimistic that things will go better at a personal level in 2010 even though her financial situation might grow worse.

Flanigan, 36, is unemployed after selling a family business that faced increasing competition. “Financially, I’m scared,” she said in an

interview.

Rather than seek new work, however, she is thinking of returning to school to become a social worker. “I’d rather make less money and do something I love,” Flanigan said, noting that happiness and optimism are not strictly tied to finances.

Every corner of the country saw steep job losses this year, and the national unemployment rate stands at 10 percent. Millions of Americans saw their savings or retirement accounts shrink, and many are rethinking how long they will have to work, and where they might find income.

Marcia Andrews was a high school nurse until budget cuts eliminated her job.

Andrews, 69, spent \$250,000 to convert an old house into a bed-and-breakfast, but the drop in tourism forced her to put it up for sale.

“It was the wrong place and the wrong time,” said Andrews, one of those surveyed in mid December. On top of that, she lost money in the stock market.

Despite signs that the nation is edging away from the worst aspects of a severe recession, people remain largely downbeat about the economy. Fewer than half think the economy will get better in 2010, while slightly more than half think it will worsen or stay about the same.

Just over a third think their

own family’s finances will get better, while almost two-thirds think their finances will stay the same or get worse.

James Lewis, who just retired, called 2009 a “financial disaster” for America, and he fears 2010 won’t be much better.

Lewis, 62, said of the past year: “Everything done wrong. Everybody losing their (retirement savings). Some people losing their house, their retirement.”

He is pessimistic about 2010, pointing blame at financial institutions and government officials.

“They’ve made a mess and they’re going to have a hard time cleaning it up,” said Lewis, who calls himself a political independent. Government regulators, he said, “dropped the ball.”

Lewis said 2009 wasn’t too bad for him personally, but some members of his family “can’t find a job that pays enough to live.” He said he doesn’t have much hope — “maybe a little” — that they will find work in 2010.

Americans are not optimistic about the nation’s two wars. Thirty-one percent think the situation in Afghanistan will get better, while 67 percent think it stay the same or get worse. The results were about the same for Iraq.

Given that President Barack Obama took office in 2009 and Democrats enjoyed

solid majorities in Congress, perhaps it is not surprising that Democrats have a sunnier view of the current and coming years than do Republicans.

Only 10 percent of Republicans said 2009 was a good year, compared to about one-third of Democrats and independents. A whopping 87 percent of Democrats are optimistic about what 2010 will bring for the country, compared with 53 percent of Republicans and 73 percent of independents.

People’s views of their personal circumstances divide along partisan lines, too.

Only one in five Republicans think their family’s finances will improve in 2010. Nearly half of Democrats and 40 percent of independents hold that view.

Steve Bishop, 59, said he is pleased the government is trying to overhaul the nation’s health care system.

“At least we’re addressing the

problem finally, and it could be fine-tuned as we go on in later years,” said Bishop, a Democrat and retired U.S. Forest Service manager.

For the nation, Bishop said, 2009 “was definitely better than 2008 because we’re seeing the recovery of the economy.” For him personally, he said, the year “was O.K.”

He said his daughter went through furloughs, and his son-in-law lost some work in his construction job.

“But everyone still has a job, they still have health care, so in that sense it was probably good compared to other people,” he said.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted Dec. 10-14 by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Media and involved landline and cell phone interviews of 1,001 adults nationwide. It has a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points. □

Obama moves to curb federal secrets

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Tuesday ordered the federal government to rethink how it protects America’s secrets, in a move that was expected to declassify more than 400 million pages of Cold War-era documents and curb the number of government records hidden from the public.

Among the changes is a requirement that every record be released eventually and that federal agencies review how and why they mark documents classified or deny the release of historical records. A National Declassification Center at the National Archives will be established to assist them and help clear a backlog of the Cold War records by Dec. 31, 2013.

Obama also reversed a decision by President George W. Bush that had allowed the intelligence community to block the release of a specific document, even if an interagency panel decided the information wouldn’t harm national security.

Advocates for a more open government are cautiously cheering the move.

“Everything will depend on implementation,” said Steven Aftergood, director of the Project on Government Secrecy at the Federation of American Scientists. But the order “has tremendous potential to reduce the level of secrecy throughout the government.”

In a memo to agency heads, Obama said he expects that the order will produce “measurable progress” toward greater openness in government while also protecting the nation’s most important secrets.

“I will closely monitor the results,” he promised.

The still-classified Cold War records would provide a wealth of data on U.S.-Soviet relations, including the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the fall of the Berlin Wall, diplomacy and espionage. A Soviet spy ring in the Navy led by John Walker headlined 1985, which became known as “The Year of the Spy.” □

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NYPD: No bomb inside van abandoned in Times Square

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A van parked in the heart of Times Square with tinted windows, no license plates and a bogus law enforcement placard led the police to briefly evacuate the tourist hot spot and send in a bomb squad on the day before the area's New Year's Eve gathering. No explosive devices were found inside the white van Wednesday afternoon, and the area was reopened to traffic about two hours after the incident began.

The van was spotted by patrol officers around 11 a.m. Wednesday on Broadway between 41st and 42nd Streets, and counterterrorism and bomb squad crews responded. The area was blocked off and two high-rise buildings home to Nasdaq and publishing company Conde Nast were partially evacuated but allowed back in around 1 p.m.

Nasdaq said its trading was unaffected. Conde Nast was in the process of evacuating when the order was lifted. There were no corresponding terror threats involving the

vehicle, said chief NYPD spokesman Paul J. Browne. But police take extra care around New Year's Eve when the ball-drop celebration draws hundreds of thousands of revelers to the heart of Times Square from around the world. Squads routinely patrol for suspicious vehicles and do sweeps in garages before the annual event.

"Its presence in Times Square just before New Year's Eve causes us concern, and that's why we're taking extra precautions," he said. The 1992 Dodge van was parked in a row of cars beneath some of the large billboards that ring the square. Police used a robot to examine the vehicle, then approached on foot and peered in the windows. The van was opened and clothing was discovered inside, along with a temporary registration. Police were looking for the van's owner.

Shouting and putting up wooden barricades, police began clearing several blocks, directing thousands of Times Square tourists to move south. Investigators

also towed a parked car several yards from the van. A tarp partially covered the van, and the placard said "detective's crime clinic, New York/New Jersey area," a nonexistent law enforcement agency.

It wasn't clear how long the van had been parked there, although New Yorkers who work in the area said the van had been there at least two days.

A similar-looking van in the same location appeared on Google Street View in warmer weather, which suggests it could have been there for a while. □



Emergency personnel gather around a suspicious van that was parked in Times Square, New York, Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009. No explosive devices were found inside the van Wednesday afternoon, and the area was reopened to traffic about two hours after the incident began.

Associated Press

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Texting while driving, smoking target of '10 laws



In this file photo taken Dec. 15, 2009, Tina Derby sends text messages while driving in Concord, N.H. It will be harder to legally text while driving, eat fatty foods and light up in bars and restaurants under new laws that take effect across the country this year.

By **SCOTT BAUER**
Associated Press Writer

MADISON, Wis. — Texting while driving, smoking in

public and cooking with artery-clogging trans fats will be that much harder under a bevy of state laws set to take

Associated Press

effect around the country on Friday.

Faced with huge budget shortfalls and little extra money to throw around, state lawmakers exercised their (inexpensive) power to clamp down on impolite, unhealthy and sometimes dangerous behaviors in 2009.

Even toy guns were targeted. Among the most surprising new laws set to take effect in 2010 is a smoking ban for bars and restaurants in North Carolina, the country's largest tobacco producer that has a history steeped in tradition around the golden leaf.

Starting Saturday — stragglers get a one-day reprieve to puff away after their New Year's Day meals — smokers will no longer be allowed to light up in North Carolina bars and restaurants. There are

exceptions for country clubs, Elks lodges and the like, but the change is a dramatic one for North Carolina, whose tax coffers long depended on Big Tobacco.

Virginia approved a similar law that took effect Dec. 1, but it's more accommodating to smokers because it allows establishments to offer areas in which to light up as long as they have separate ventilating systems.

Not including Virginia and its partial ban, smoking will be banned in restaurants in 29 states and in bars in 25, according to the American Lung Association.

And 12 more states — including Florida, Michigan and Arkansas — have passed laws requiring manufacturers to make their cigarettes less likely to start fires, leaving Wyoming as the only state without such laws, according to the Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes.

America's roads should be safer in 2010, as bans on texting while driving go into effect in New Hampshire, Oregon and Illinois. According to the Governors Highway Safety Association, that will make 19 states that have outlawed the practice, not including six states that prohibit using handheld cell phones while behind the wheel.

"This legislation is important and will make our roads safer. No driver has any business text messaging while they are driving," said Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, whose office regulates drivers.

Tina Derby, 42, of Warner, N.H., said she has no intention to stop texting while driving, despite the possible \$100 fine she could receive.

"I'd better start saving my money," Derby said.

A new Arkansas law prohibits retailers from selling toy guns that look like they real thing. But it may not have that big of an effect.

Imitation guns used for theater productions and other events are exempted, as are replicas of firearms produced before 1898, BB guns, paintball or pellet guns.

Major retailers in the state also say they don't expect any major changes from the

new ban. Bentonville-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc. says it already follows similar federal restrictions prohibiting the sale of realistic-looking toy guns.

California will be the first state to partially ban the use of artificial trans fats in restaurants in 2010, following several major cities and fast-food chains that have erased the notorious artery-clogger from menus.

Starting Friday, the state's restaurants, bakeries and other retail food establishments will no longer be allowed to use products with trans fats in spreads or for frying. Restaurants will still be allowed to use trans fats to deep-fry yeast dough and in cake batter until Jan. 1, 2011.

And a new anti-paparazzi law is set to take effect Friday in the state with the movie star governor that will make it easier for celebrities to sue media outlets claiming invasion of privacy.

Fans of dog races will have to find another form of entertainment in Massachusetts, as the 75-year-old tradition has been outlawed starting Friday.

In New Hampshire, a new gay marriage law will replace a law that allows civil unions, which already provided gay couples with all the rights and responsibilities of marriage.

Starting Friday, a gay couple in a civil union can get a marriage license and have a new ceremony, if they choose. They also can convert their civil union into marriage without going through another ceremony. Couples who do nothing will have their civil unions automatically converted to marriages in 2011. Conservatives are seeking to repeal the law.

In Wisconsin, both same-sex and unwed opposite-sex domestic partners who work for the state and University of Wisconsin can sign up to receive health insurance benefits. A law that allowed same-sex partners to sign a registry to receive other benefits similar to what married couples get took effect in August.

Some other laws set to take effect:

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Somali arrested at airport with chemicals, syringe

JASON STRAZIUSO
KATHARINE HOURELD
MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN
Associated Press Writers
MOGADISHU, Somalia

(AP) — A man tried to board a commercial airliner in Mogadishu last month carrying powdered chemicals, liquid and a syringe that could have caused an explosion in a case bearing chilling similarities to the terrorist plot to blow up a Detroit-bound airliner, officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The Somali man — whose name has not yet been released — was arrested by African Union peacekeeping troops before the Nov. 13 Daallo Airlines flight took off. It had been scheduled to travel from Mogadishu to the northern Somali city of Hargeisa, then to Djibouti and Dubai. A Somali police spokesman, Abdulahi Hassan Barise, said the suspect is in Somali custody.

"We don't know whether he's linked with al-Qaida or other foreign organizations, but his actions were the acts of a terrorist. We caught him red-handed," said Barise.

A Nairobi-based diplomat said the incident in Somalia is similar to the attempted attack on the Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day in that the Somali man had a syringe, a bag of powdered chemicals and liquid — tools similar to those used in the Detroit attack. The diplomat spoke on condition he not be identified because he isn't authorized to release the information.

Barigye Bahoku, the spokesman

for the African Union military force in Mogadishu, said the chemicals from the Somali suspect could have caused an explosion that would have caused air decompression inside the plane. However, Bahoku said he doesn't believe an explosion would have brought the plane down.

A second international official familiar with the incident, also speaking on condition of anonymity because he isn't authorized to discuss the case, confirmed that the substances carried by the Somali passenger could have been used as an explosive device.

In the Detroit case, alleged attacker Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab hid explosive PETN in a condom or condom-like bag just below his torso when he traveled from Amsterdam to Detroit. Like the captured Somali, Abdulmutallab also had a syringe filled with liquid. The substances seized from the Somali passenger are being tested.

The November incident garnered little attention before the Dec. 25 attack aboard a flight on final approach to Detroit. U.S. officials have now learned of the Somali case and are hastening to investigate any possible links between it and the Detroit attack, though no officials would speak on the record about the probe.

U.S. investigators said Abdulmutallab told them he received training and instructions from al-Qaida operatives in Yemen — which lies across the Gulf of Aden from Somalia. Similarly, large swaths

of Somalia are controlled by an insurgent group, al-Shabab, which has ties to al-Qaida.

Western officials say many of the hundreds of foreign jihadi fighters in Somalia come in small boats across the Gulf of Aden from Yemen. The officials also say that examination of equipment used in some Somali suicide attacks leads them to believe it was originally assembled in Yemen. □



This recent undated photo provided by Bancroft, an organization that provides technical and analytical advice to AMISOM, the African Union peace keeping force in Mogadishu shows a dog searching for explosives with a handler at his side at the Mogadishu airbase in Somalia.

Associated Press

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner

Appetizer
Mixed Seafood in Vol a Vent
or
Spinach Mandarin Salad
Baby spinach dress in an orange dressing with feta cheese and roasted almonds
or
Authentic Caesar Salad
With our home made Caesar dressing

Soup
Crab and Corn Chowder
Homemade crab & corn chowder with veggies and cream

Entrees
Grilled Filet of Beef topped with Stuffed Shrimp
Charbroiled filet of beef tenderloin served with stuffed shrimp and Chorrón sauce
or
Seared Chilean Sea-bass
With oriental soy sauce, spaghetti squash and asparagus
or
Stuffed Chicken Breast
with Crabmeat in a Raspberry Cream Sauce
Seared stuffed chicken breast with crabmeat in a rich raspberry cream sauce
or
Mustard Roast Rack of Lamb
Seared mustard rack of lamb served with rosemary mint sauce
Wasabi mashed potato and veggies

Dessert
Poached Pear with Mascarpone and Red Wine Coulees
or
Chocolate Mousse Bombay
or
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In this April 18, 2003 file photo, youths dance in the night club "La Locomotive" in Paris.

Associated Press

ANGELA DOLAND
Associated Press Writer
PARIS (AP) — Just in time for New Year's Eve, a new decree from France: Let them dance 'til dawn.

Despite France's reputation for bon vivants sipping Champagne until the wee hours, aficionados have been complaining that nightlife, especially in Paris, is in decline.

An Internet petition warns that the City of Light has become "Europe's capital of sleep" — and complains that musicians, DJs and partiers are heading instead to London, Barcelona, Prague and Berlin.

In a bid to bring them back,

government proclaimed last weekend that dance clubs across France can now stay open until 7 a.m., later than has been allowed in many parts of the country.

For some partiers, it's a matter of economics.

"This way we can get our money's worth from the cover charges," said Elodie Bari, a 24-year-old preparing to spend New Year's Eve at the massive Macumba club near France's border with Switzerland. The club, with seven dance floors, has booked 10 DJs for the event.

In Paris, police frequently break up festivities after complaints from neighbors.

New French government decree: Party 'til dawn

Smoky drinking holes have become a thing of the past: A ban on lighting up in restaurants and bars went into effect two years ago.

The Internet petition, launched in October, has 14,000 signatures so far and asks authorities for clearer legislation — and subsidies for soundproofing.

Until now, local officials had the power to decide how late clubs could stay open. That encouraged drunk driving, as partiers hopped in their cars and headed to areas where clubs stayed open later, the Synhorcat union for hotels, restaurants and caterers said. Closing times were especially bewildering in Paris because they differed in the city's 20 arrondissements, or neighborhoods.

The new law clears all that up: Party till the sun comes up. It also requires nightclubs to stop serving alcohol an hour and a half before closing to cut down on drunk driving.

The union, which supports

the changes, said early closing times led to binge-drinking in the streets. Binge drinking is a growing concern in France, where youths were traditionally taught to savor the fruit of the grape, not chug hard liquor.

Club owners were taken by surprise by the new rules.

Many big nightclubs, like the Rex Club in the heart of Paris, already close around 6 or 7 a.m. The club's director, Fabrice Gadeau, is unsure how the new hours will affect his business. "Will people leave at 7, or will they leave at 5:30 when alcohol sales end?"

he wondered. "This law came out of nowhere right before New Year's Eve."

France isn't the only country to experiment with the rules. Britain overhauled its drinking laws in 2005, allowing bars and clubs to apply for permission to stay open around the clock. The changes were supposed to cut down on binge drinking at closing time.

But three years later, the government acknowledged that keeping the bars open 24 hours hadn't curbed binge drinking — and, in some cities, alcohol-related violence actually rose. □



Afghans chant anti American slogans in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009, during a protest against the recent killings of 10 civilians allegedly by coalition forces in Kunar province.

Associated Press

8 Americans dead in Afghan attack

By **DEB RIECHMANN**
Associated Press Writer

KABUL — Eight Americans died Wednesday in a suicide bombing at a military base in eastern Afghanistan, U.S. officials said.

"Eight Americans were killed in an attack on a U.S. military base in Regional Command East in Afghanistan," State Department Spokesman Ian Kelly said. "We mourn the loss of life in this attack, and are withholding further details pending notification of next of kin."

Conflicting reports were reaching the Pentagon on whether the victims were civilian or military in the bombing at Forward Operating Base Chapman in Khost province near the border with Pakistan.

The deaths were confirmed late Wednesday by a U.S. official in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

A senior U.S. official in Washington said the Americans were killed by an attacker wearing a suicide vest.

Wazir Pacha, a police spokesman in Khost province, said local people reported hearing a blast on the base. □

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Iran hard-liners back government in mass rallies

ALI AKBAR DAREINI,
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Tens of thousands of hard-line government supporters turned out for state-sponsored rallies Wednesday, some of them calling for the execution of opposition leaders as Iran's police chief threatened to show "no mercy" in crushing any new protests by the pro-reform movement.

Amid the pro-government fervor, Iran's official news agency reported that the top two opposition leaders have fled the capital, Tehran. But a close relative of one of the men, Mahdi Karroubi, told The Associated Press the report by the IRNA news agency was wrong and that Karroubi and the other leader, Mir Hossein Mousavi, were both at their homes in Tehran.

The relative spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal.

Pro-government rallies were staged in Shiraz, Arak, Qom and Tehran, among other cities. Demonstrators at a rally in Tehran chanted "Death to Mousavi," a reference to the top opposition leader. Some shouted "Rioter hypocrites must be executed" and held up a banner that read: "We sacrifice our blood for the supreme leader."

The government gave all civil servants and employees a day off to attend the rallies and organized buses to transport groups of schoolchildren and supporters from outlying rural areas to the protests.

Hard-line cleric Ahmad Alamolhoda called opponents of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei supporters of Satan.

"Enemies of the leader, according to the Quran, belong to the party of Satan," Alamolhoda told demonstrators in Tehran in comments broadcast on state TV. "Our war in the world is war against the opponents of the rule of the supreme leader."

In a surprising acknowledgment of the opposition's impact,



This image taken from Iranian State TV, showing part of a pro-government demonstration Wednesday Dec. 30, 2009, through the streets of Tehran, Iran. The large crowd are seen waving various banners and flags during the pro-government demonstration.

Khamenei said Wednesday that the country's Islamic rulers have lost some supporters since the disputed presidential election in June first triggered the turmoil. Still, he blamed the pro-reform opposition leaders for Iran's problems.

"The reality in the society is that as some (supporters) dropped out, twice that number joined (us)," he was quoted as saying by the IRNA news agency.

Police chief Gen. Ismail Ahmadi Moghaddam warned protesters to stay off the streets or face harsh consequences. At least eight people were killed in street violence Sunday, the country's worst unrest since the aftermath of the June 12 election.

"In dealing with previous protests, police showed leniency. But given that these opponents are seeking to topple (the ruling system), there will be no mercy," Moghaddam said, according to IRNA. "We will take severe action. The era of tolerance is over. Anyone attending such rallies will be crushed."

One of those killed Sunday was the nephew of Mousavi. Iran's deputy police chief said Ali Mousavi was assassinated

by unidentified assailants and not killed by security forces. Ali Mousavi was buried Wednesday in a hastily organized ceremony. Authorities had taken his body from the hospital earlier in the week in what was seen as an attempt to prevent the funeral from turning into another pro-opposition protest.

The opposition says Ali Mousavi was shot and killed by security forces. But Iran's deputy police chief, Ahmad Reza Radan, was quoted by IRNA as saying that the way he was killed suggests he was assassinated while walking. The New York Times has quoted a family friend as saying he was run over by a vehicle outside his home in an assassination.

The opposition leader and other family members attended the funeral.

Iranian authorities faced uncomfortable questions about a graphic video broadcast on the Internet purportedly from Sunday's demonstrations. It showed two white police pickup trucks, with large bullbars on the front bumpers, plowing separately into a group of protesters.

One truck is first seen driving

into the crowd, then reversing away from a body lying face down on the asphalt. The second truck then speeds up and runs over the body, lying in a pool of blood, as people nearby cry out. The authenticity of the video could not be independently verified.

When asked about the video and whether police trucks intentionally ran over people, Moghaddam became enraged. "Don't ask lies," he said. "There are no pictures showing police cars running over people."

The police chief said more than 500 protesters who took part in Sunday's demonstrations have been arrested but the number may be higher since hard-line Basij militiamen and intelligence agents may have apprehended more people on their own.

The deputy, Radan, said police have a video showing a black car running over two people during Sunday's violence. He said the owner of the car had been arrested but provided no other details.

There are increasing fears Mousavi could also be arrested, after the detention of a number of prominent activists and the sister of

Nobel peace laureate Shirin Ebadi.

The government has also limited the movement of Karroubi, the other opposition leader, by refusing to protect him when he leaves his home. Karroubi and Mousavi were the two defeated reformist candidates in the disputed June election, which set off the worst unrest in Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Authorities are also tightly restricting media coverage of street rallies. Internet access in the country is sporadic, as are cell phone and text messaging services.

Sunday's deadly protests coincided with Ashoura, the most solemn day of the year for Shiite Muslims. The observance commemorates the seventh-century death in battle of one of Shiite Islam's most beloved saints, and it conveys a message of sacrifice in the face of repression.

Hard-liners are especially furious that some of the protesters insulted the supreme leader, casting aside a taboo on personal criticism of the leader. The government has said the protesters are a tiny minority and accused the U.S. and Britain of organizing the opposition.

The hard-line criticism has become increasingly vocal, with some activists threatening to take the law into their own hands.

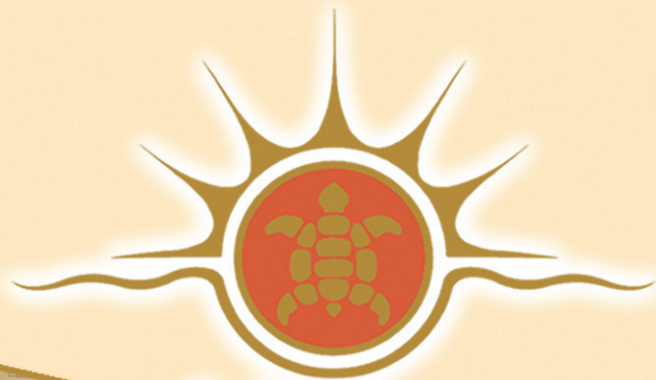
The arrests, along with the tough criticism of the U.S. and Britain, added to rising tensions with the West, which is threatening to impose tough new sanctions over Iran's suspect nuclear program and has criticized the violent crackdown on anti-government protesters.

On Wednesday the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay urged the government to keep security forces from using excessive force. She said she was "shocked by the upsurge in deaths, injuries and arrests" and stressed the people have the right to peacefully protest without being beaten and thrown into jail. □

Associated Press

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'Thriller' to be preserved in US film registry

By **BRETT ZONGKER**,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Michael Jackson's "Thriller" video, with that unforgettable graveyard dance, will rest among the nation's treasures in the world's largest archive of film, TV and sound recordings.

The 1983 music video directed by John Landis, though still the subject of lawsuits over profits, was one of 25 films to be inducted Wednesday for preservation in the 2009 National Film Registry of the Library of Congress.

It's the first music video named to the registry. It had

been considered in past years, but following Jackson's death, the time was right, said Steve Leggett, coordinator of the National Film Preservation Board.

"Because of the way the recording industry is evolving and changing, we thought it would be good to go back to the development of an earlier seismic shift, which was the development of the music video," he said.

Joining the King of Pop in the 2009 class will be the Muppets from 1979's "The Muppet Movie" — the first time on the big screen for Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy — and

the 1957 sci-fi classic "The Incredible Shrinking Man," among other titles.

The library works with film archives and movie studios to ensure original copies are kept safe. It also acquires a copy for preservation in its own vaults among millions of other recordings at the Packard Campus of the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in the hills near Culpeper, Va.

"By preserving the nation's films, we safeguard a significant element of our cultural patrimony and history," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

Congress established the



registry in 1989, which now totals 525 films. They are selected not as the "best" American films but instead for their enduring importance to U.S. culture.

The library selects films that are "culturally, historically or aesthetically" significant after reviewing hundreds of titles and consulting with the National Film Preservation Board.

In "The Muppet Movie," Kermit leads his fellow TV characters on a road trip to Hollywood where they meet Steve Martin, Mel Brooks and other actors with the magic of creators Jim Henson and Frank Oz.

Other notable titles include "Once Upon a Time in the West" (1968), directed by

Sergio Leone, representing the "spaghetti western" genre that helped propel such rising stars as Clint Eastwood. The list also includes Bette Davis' Oscar-winning performance in "Jezebel" from 1938.

The oldest film inducted was "Little Nemo" from 1911, a mix of live action and animation adapted from Winsor McCay's comic strip "Little Nemo in Slumberland." The film, highly advanced for its time, influenced future animators, including Walt Disney.

Regardless of ongoing legal disputes over rights to Jackson's "Thriller," the library holds a copy submitted in 1984 for copyright purposes and will seek to acquire another for preservation. □

Chief gets nearly 3 years in Parker-Broderick case

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio — A former Ohio police chief has been sentenced to prison in connection with a break-in at the home of the surrogate who bore twins for Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick.

Barry Carpenter was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison Wednesday. He was convicted last month on charges of receiving stolen property, theft in office and evidence tampering but acquitted of other counts, including burglary.

His attorney vowed to appeal. Carpenter resigned two weeks ago as chief in Martins Ferry, where the celebrity couple's surrogate lived. Carpenter and Police Chief Chad Dojack of neighboring Bridgeport were accused of conspiring to steal items from the woman's home to sell to paparazzi.

Dojack's trial is scheduled for next month. □



BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



Stocks fluctuate after manufacturing data

By SARA LEPRO, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks fluctuated Wednesday as good news on manufacturing helped offset a decline in commodities prices.

The market got support from a key economic indicator that signaled growth in the Midwest manufacturing industry for a third straight month. The Chicago Purchasing Managers Index rose to 60 in December from 56.1 in November. The report showed that production and new orders increased and employment improved.

But the market's gains were held back by a drop in energy and material stocks. A stronger dollar pulled on commodities prices, making the shares of companies that produce commodities less attractive.

Some investors have been buying the dollar in recent weeks on the belief that the economy is improving and the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates in the next year. That buying interest comes after a months-long slide in the greenback. Rock-bottom interest rates have encouraged investors this year to move out of cash and into riskier assets such as stocks and commodities that have the potential to earn bigger returns.

While a rise in interest rates would be a sign that the economy is on the right track, it could hurt the stock market's advance. A stronger dollar makes commodities more expensive for foreign buyers and can hurt the profits of companies that do business overseas.

There were also plenty of reminders that companies are still hurting from the blows of the recession.

The government was preparing to extend another multibillion loan to GMAC Financial Services to further stabilize the auto financing company, according to a person familiar

with the matter. GMAC, instrumental to the operations of automakers General Motors Co. and Chrysler Group LLC, has already received \$12.5 billion in taxpayer money and is 35 percent owned by the federal government. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because discussions weren't complete, said the bailout would be in the range of about \$3 billion.

Meanwhile, health insurer Aetna Inc. said it expects to take a fourth-quarter charge of up to \$65 million to cover the costs of layoffs and consolidations.

In late morning trading, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 13.15, or 0.1 percent, to 10,532.26. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 2.43, or 0.2 percent, to 1,123.76, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 6.09, or 0.3 percent, to 2,282.31.

The ICE Futures U.S. dollar index, which measures the dollar against other major currencies, rose 0.4 percent. Gold and other metals fell. Oil prices added 12 cents to \$78.99 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Bond prices were steady ahead of an auction of seven-year notes, the last of the government's issuances this week. In total, the Treasury is auctioning off \$118 billion of new debt. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, was unmoved at 3.80 percent. Interest rates on many consumer loans track the yield on the 10-year Treasury.

The pullback in stocks added to modest losses on Tuesday when the market ended a six-day winning streak as reports on home prices and consumer confidence failed to rally investors. While the reports showed improvement, they were largely in line with expectations and painted a

picture of a slowly recovering economy.

After a 24.7 percent rise in the Standard & Poor's 500 index this year, many investors have closed their books and are making few moves ahead of the start of 2010. Fewer traders in the market can lead to more volatility.

"We've seen oil up and down, the dollar up and down, the market up and down," said Frank Ingarra, co-portfolio manager at Hennessy Funds.



In this Dec. 11, 2009 photo, a statue of George Washington overlooks Wall Street, the New York Stock Exchange, and a Christmas tree, in New York. Stocks were mostly lower in early trading Wednesday, Dec. 30, as a stronger dollar weighed on commodities prices.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



212 in NFL would have lesser free agency if no cap



Denver Broncos wide receiver Brandon Marshall (15) goes in for a five-yard touchdown-reception while being defended by Indianapolis Colts safety Antoine Bethea (41) and safety Tim Jennings (23) during the second quarter of an NFL football game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009.

Associated Press

By **HOWARD FENDRICH** AP Sports Writer
 WASHINGTON — Miles Austin of Dallas, Brandon Marshall of Denver and six other Pro Bowl picks are

among more than 200 NFL players who would lose their status as unrestricted free agents this offseason if the league and its union can't agree on a new labor contract. According to a list obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday, there are 212 players who would be considered restricted free agents — instead of unrestricted — if there is no salary cap in 2010. There is at least one player from each of the NFL's 32 teams on the list.

In an uncapped year, a player would need at least six years in the NFL, up from the current minimum of four years in the league, to be an unrestricted free agent able to sign with any team.

Pro Bowl linebackers Elvis Dumervil of Denver and DeMeco Ryans of Houston are in the group of potentially affected players, as are starting

quarterbacks Kyle Orton of Denver and Jason Campbell of Washington.

The other players announced Tuesday as selections for this season's Pro Bowl who could find themselves missing out on a chance to cash in this offseason are Packers safety Nick Collins, Patriots guard Logan Mankins, Saints guard Jahri Evans and Eagles fullback Leonard Weaver.

In addition to the NFL's sacks leader (Dumervil), and the NFC's leader in yards receiving (Austin), other prominent names on the list include Chargers linebacker Shawne Merriman, Jets receiver Braylon Edwards, Colts safety Antoine Bethea, Dolphins running back Ronnie Brown and Patriots kicker Stephen Gostkowski.

If they lose out on the chance to become unrestricted free agents this offseason, players might not get what they

were expecting to be a huge payoff. They also won't have the luxury of moving freely anywhere in the league.

A restricted free agent's old club gets a chance to offer the player a one-year contract at different levels of pay which determine what level of draft-choice compensation the old club would receive for losing the player. And the old club has the right to match any offer another club makes to a restricted free agent.

Other rules changes would go into effect if there is no salary cap in 2010. There would be no minimum or maximum amounts teams could spend on payroll, and each club would get an extra "transition player" tag. A "transition player" must be offered a minimum of the average of the top 10 salaries of the prior season at the player's position or 120 percent of the player's previous year's salary, whichever is greater. □

NHL Roundup

Stafford bounces back in Sabres 4-3 win over Pens

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Jason Pominville scored with 9:05 left to complete the Buffalo Sabres' rally from a three-goal deficit to beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 in the NHL on Tuesday.

Drew Stafford scored twice, first on a penalty shot, and added an assist on Paul Gaustad's goal. Patrick Lalime stopped all 27 shots he faced in relief of starter Ryan Miller, who was pulled after allowing three goals on 11 shots through 22 minutes.

Jordan Staal, Bill Guerin and Chris Kunitz scored for the Penguins, who squandered a three-goal lead for the first time since a 5-3 loss at Nashville last Jan. 8.

Ducks 4, Wild 2

At Anaheim, California, Bobby Ryan scored two goals and set up another for rookie Dan Sexton to lead Anaheim over Minnesota.

Jonas Hiller made 29 saves and Todd Marchant added a short-handed empty-netter with 10 seconds remaining for the Ducks, who played without center Ryan Getzlaf for the first time this season after he cut his right leg with his own skate during Saturday's loss at San Jose.

Antti Miettinen and Kim Johnsson scored for the Wild, who squandered a chance to set a team record with their 11th win this month. At 10-5 in December, they have

one more opportunity to do it, on Thursday against at home against the Los Angeles Kings.

Coyotes 3, Canucks 2

At Glendale, Arizona, Jason LaBarbera made 28 saves and was perfect in the shootout to help Phoenix set a franchise record by winning their 10th straight home game with a victory over Vancouver.

Ed Jovanovski and Petr Prucha scored in regulation and Lauri Korpikoski had the lone goal of the shootout for the Coyotes, who surpassed the nine-game streak set by the Winnipeg Jets from Dec. 27, 1992 through Jan. 23, 1993.

Mikael Samuelsson and Kyle Wellwood scored for the



Buffalo Sabres right winger Drew Stafford, right, scores on a penalty shot against Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the in Buffalo, N.Y., Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009.

Associated Press

Canucks, who became the last team in the league to record an overtime loss.

At Uniondale, New York, Rob Schremp scored the only goal in the shootout and Dwayne Roloson made 41 saves as the New York Islanders beat Columbus.

Josh Bailey scored his first goal in more than a month for the Islanders. R.J. Umberger's

backhand goal with 10:13 left in regulation salvaged a point for the Blue Jackets, who are 2-13 in December and have lost 10 of 11.

In other NHL games it was N.Y. Islanders 2, Columbus 1, SO; Buffalo 4, Pittsburgh 3; Nashville 4, St. Louis 3; Dallas 5, Chicago 4; Phoenix 3, Vancouver 2, SO; and Anaheim 4, Minnesota 2. □

Crosby, Brodeur lead Team Canada in Olympic hockey

ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

Sidney Crosby wasn't about to get snubbed again.

The youngest captain in NHL history to win a Stanley Cup was chosen Wednesday for Canada's Olympic hockey team, four years after being left off the underachieving squad that finished a disappointing seventh in Turin, Italy.

Crosby was among the easiest picks for executive director Steve Yzerman, the longtime Red Wings captain whose choices have been debated and evaluated for months in hockey-obsessed Canada, which virtually shut down for the announcement.

"This is a special honor," Crosby said. "I'm pretty proud of it."

Among the top selections were goaltender Martin Brodeur, who recently set the

NHL record with his 104th career shutout; defenseman Scott Niedermayer and Chris Pronger; forward Jarome Iginla, the star of Canada's 2002 gold-medal winning team; Joe Thornton, the NHL scoring leader; and Corey Perry and Ryan Getzlaf, a pair of 24-year-old Anaheim Ducks teammates.

Niedermayer is the captain, with Pronger, Crosby and Iginla as alternate captains. The Pittsburgh Penguins' Crosby, at age 22, wasn't the youngest chosen — Los Angeles Kings defenseman Drew Doughty just turned 20, and Chicago forward Jonathan Toews is 21.

Joining Brodeur in goal will be 2006 holdover Roberto Luongo of Vancouver and Penguins Stanley Cup winner Marc-Andre Fleury.

Also chosen at forward

were Rick Nash, Columbus; Thornton's San Jose teammates Patrick Marleau and Dany Heatley; Philadelphia's Mike Richards; Patrice Bergeron, Boston; Eric Staal, Carolina; and Brenden Morrow, Dallas. Bergeron was the only player chosen to the 23-man team who wasn't picked for the pre-Olympic camp in August.

The defensemen include Chicago teammates Brent Seabrook and Duncan Keith; Dan Boyle, San Jose; and Shea Weber, Nashville.

There were surprises. Among those passed over were Washington's Mike Green, the NHL's leading scorer among defensemen; Calgary defensemen trio Jay Bouwmeester, Robyn Regehr and Dion Phaneuf; Tampa Bay forwards Martin St. Louis, Steven Stamkos and Vincent Lecavalier; Ottawa forward



Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby prepares for a face-off against the Ottawa Senators in the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2009.

Associated Press

Mike Fisher; Philadelphia forward Jeff Carter; and Pittsburgh forward Jordan Staal, Eric's brother. Bouwmeester signed a \$33 million, five-year contract only last summer and was seen as a lock for the team a few weeks ago.

Richards has been slumping lately for the Flyers, but was chosen because he is an excellent penalty killer. He

leads the NHL in short-handed goals since 2005.

Green apparently was not among the final players being weighed for the roster, possibly because he is considered to have defensive liabilities. However, Canada's power play converted only 13 percent of its chances in Turin, and Green's scoring ability might have proved to be an asset. □

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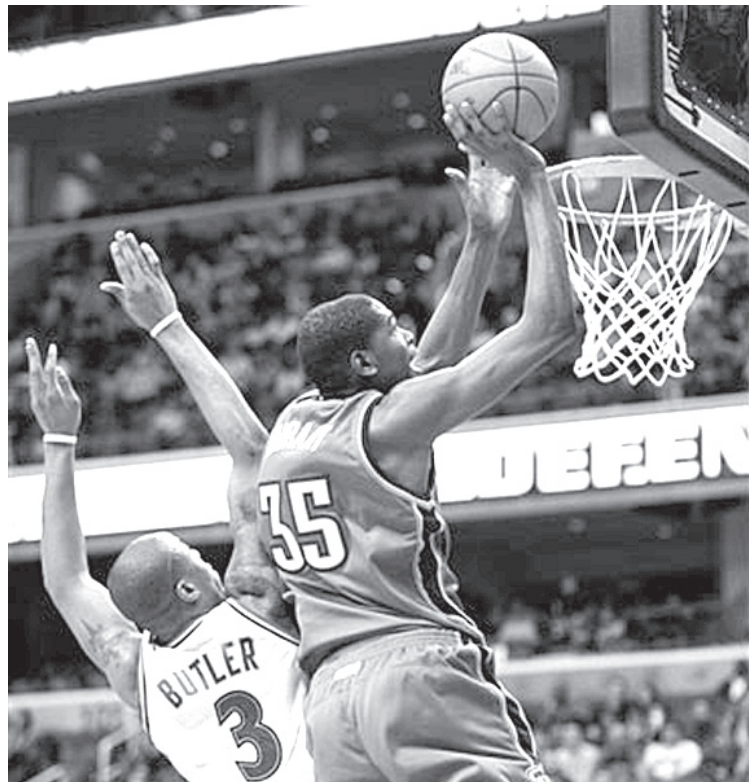


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Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) goes to the basket against Washington Wizards forward Caron Butler (3) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009, in Washington.

Associated Press

NBA Roundup

Cavs clip Hawks again, 95-84

ATLANTA (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers held Atlanta scoreless for almost nine minutes to open the fourth quarter to break open a close game and beat the Hawks 95-84 in the NBA on Tuesday.

Mo Williams had 20 points to lead the Cavaliers, who won in their return to Philips Arena since a dominant four-game sweep of the Hawks in the second round of last season's playoffs.

Delonte West had 17 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 15 off Cleveland's bench. LeBron James had 14 points, 10 assists and five steals but made only 6 of 20 shots from the field.

Knicks 104, Pistons 87

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, David Lee had a season-high 30 points and 12 rebounds as New York handed Detroit an eighth straight loss.

Wilson Chandler added 23 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks. Richard Hamilton had 16 points and Rodney Stuckey scored 15 for Detroit despite combining to shoot just 11 of 34.

Thunder 110, Wizards 98

At Washington, Kevin Durant had 35 points and 11 rebounds, Jeff Green added 18 points and Oklahoma City beat Washington for the team's first four-game winning streak in 3½ years.

It was the fifth straight game that Durant topped the 30-point mark. He has exceeded 30 points nine times in Oklahoma City's 14 December games.

The Thunder, who last won four straight in April 2006 when they were the Seattle SuperSonics, earned their ninth road victory of the season — one more than they had during 2008-09, their first season in Oklahoma City.

Rockets 108, Hornets 100

At Houston, Aaron Brooks scored 27 points, and Luis Scola added 13 points and 12 rebounds as Houston overcame Chris Paul's triple-double and David West's career game in a win over Charlotte.

Paul had 16 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his 11th career triple-double and first this season. West had 44 points and 12 rebounds, but the Hornets still slipped to 2-13 on the road this season.

Shane Battier scored 20 points and Carl Landry added 18 off the bench for the Rockets.

Bulls 104, Pacers 95

At Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 28 points as Chicago blew an early 19-point lead before recovering in the second half to beat Indiana. Chicago's second straight home victory could take some heat off coach Vinny Del Negro, whose job status has been the subject of much speculation after Chicago's disappointing start (now 12-17).

In other NBA games it was, Cleveland 95, Atlanta 84; Oklahoma City 110, Washington 98; New York 104, Detroit 87; Chicago 104, Indiana 95; San Antonio 117, Minnesota 99; Houston 108, New Orleans 100; and L.A. Lakers 124, Golden State 118. □

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UCLA ruins Temple's day, win EagleBank Bowl 30-21

WASHINGTON (AP) — UCLA rallied from a 21-7 halftime deficit and shut down Temple in the second half to win 30-21 in college football's EagleBank Bowl on Tuesday.

Akeem Ayers returned an interception 2 yards for a go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter to help ruin Temple's first bowl game in 30 years. Temple's only previous bowl appearances were the inaugural Sugar Bowl in 1935 and the Garden State Bowl in 1979.

UCLA braved the freezing temperatures and a wind chill in the teens to overcome a sluggish start. Kevin Prince completed 16 of 31 passes for 221 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. His counterpart, Vaughn Charlton, had more interceptions (two) than completed passes (one) in the second half.

The Bruins had pulled within 21-20 before Ayers stepped in front of Charlton's screen pass and strolled into the end zone with 6:01 to play.

No. 24 Wisconsin 20, No. 14 Miami 14.

At Orlando, Florida, John Clay had 121 yards rushing and two touchdowns to power No. 24 Wisconsin past 14th-ranked Miami in the Champs Sports Bowl.

Clay ran through, over and around the Hurricanes to help the Badgers earn their first victory over a ranked opponent this season and claim a big win for the Big Ten.

Scott Tolzien threw for 260 yards, and Montee Ball added 61 yards rushing for a Wisconsin team touted as too big and too slow for the dynamic Hurricanes. □



UCLA wide receiver Terrence Austin, left, defensive lineman Korey Bosworth, center, and running back Chane Moline, right, celebrate with the EagleBank Bowl trophy after UCLA defeated Temple 30-21 in the EagleBank Bowl NCAA college football game Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009, in Washington.

Associated Press



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SPORTS

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Texas Tech fires football coach Mike Leach

By BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK, Texas – Texas Tech fired coach Mike Leach on Wednesday, just two days after he was suspended by the school as it investigated his treatment of a player with a concussion.

The school handed a termination letter to Leach's attorney, Ted Liggett, just minutes before the two sides were to appear in a Lubbock, Texas, courtroom for a hearing on the coach's suspension.

Liggett said Texas Tech general counsel Pat Campbell approached him outside the courtroom and told him that win, lose or draw in the hearing, Leach was out effective immediately.

Liggett told the judge there was no need for the hearing on Leach's request that he be reinstated to coach the Alamo Bowl. Texas Tech plays Michigan State on Saturday in San Antonio.

As for Leach's reaction, Liggett said, "Well, he's not thrilled."

Liggett said he planned to file a lawsuit on Leach's behalf against the school "soon."

"We can guarantee that the fight has just begun," he said. Liggett said Leach's side has evidence that shows the decision to suspend the coach was without merit.

"So they pulled the trigger," Liggett said. "They don't want that coming out."

In February, Leach and the school agreed to a five-year, \$12.7 million contract. According to terms of the deal, Leach was due a \$800,000 bonus on Dec. 31 if he were still the head coach at Texas Tech.

Leach was suspended by the university on Monday after receiver Adam James alleged the coach twice confined him to small, dark spaces while the team practiced.



In this Nov. 8, 2008 file photo, Texas Tech head coach Mike Leach walks back to the sidelines after a timeout in an NCAA college football game against Oklahoma State in Lubbock, Texas. Texas Tech has fired football coach Mike Leach. The school handed a termination letter to Leach's attorney, Ted Liggett, on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009, just before the two sides were to appear in a Lubbock, Texas, courtroom for a hearing on the coach's suspension.

James is the son of former NFL player and ESPN analyst Craig James.

"We appreciate that the university conducted a fair and thorough investigation," said a statement from the James family. "From the family's point of view this has always been about the safety and well being of our son and of all the players on the team."

Tech is the second Big 12 school to launch an internal investigation into a coach's treatment of his players.

On Nov. 16, Kansas investigated Mark Mangino, who got a big raise after he was national coach of the year and went 12-1 in 2007. Some players said he was insensitive, though others defended him. Mangino resigned Dec. 3 after reaching a settlement with the school that was later disclosed as a \$3 million buyout.

In an affidavit included in Tuesday's court filing, Leach said he "would never intentionally harm or endanger

a player" and that he has been "forced into this situation without being afforded any process." He also said "absolutely" no evidence had been given to him that showed he had violated any university rules or standards.

Several former and current Texas Tech players and coaches defended Leach and harshly criticized James' work ethic in e-mails obtained by CBSsports.com.

Among those were former Texas Tech wide receiver Eric Morris, who wrote that James was "never known as a hard worker" and "seemed to have a negative attitude toward the football program the majority of the time."

Morris told The Associated Press on Wednesday the letters were written as school administrators began looking into the incident, before Leach was suspended. Morris said they wanted to show their support for Leach and show James' possible motives.

Morris said he spoke with Leach as the incident began unfolding.

"He told me he would never do anything" to harm a player, Morris said. "He was trying to hold someone accountable."

Leach's dismissal comes a year after he was Big 12 coach of the year and led Tech to the best season in the history of the program. The Red Raiders went 11-2 last season.

A quirky coach sometimes called a mad scientist because of pass-happy offense, Leach arrived in West Texas in 2000 with his high-octane spread offense. Since then, eight time has a Texas Tech quarterback led the nation in passing.

He parlayed his penchant for pirate lore into his coaching, telling his players they need to "swing their swords" to perform at their best. He began to not acknowledge players' injuries in 2003 to the media. In 10 seasons, he won 84 game, surpassing predecessor Spike Dykes this season as

the winningest coach at the school.

He was not able to out-recruit Big 12 South rivals Texas and Oklahoma, but during his tenure the Red Raiders challenged those teams better than they ever had before.

The year before he came to Lubbock, Leach was offensive coordinator under Bob Stoops at Oklahoma. Before that he spent two years at Kentucky and five years at Valdosta State in Georgia.

Quite an ascension from the being the head coach for a European League team in Finland.

While piling up victories, he's also occasionally spoken to Donald Trump — an acquaintance since the time Leach tried to just drop in on Trump before even meeting him while visiting New York.

Not unlike Bob Knight when he came to coach the Red Raiders basketball team for 6 1/2, Leach has raised the profile of the city and the school. He appeared on "60 Minutes" and been profiled in the New York Times Magazine.

For his success on the field and unique personality off it, he has become generally adored by Texas Tech fans.

He's handed out dating advice on his weekly local show, done the weather forecast for a Lubbock TV station and drawn cheers by buying barbecue for the thousands of students camped out at the stadium before a big game.

Leach's name surfaced in recent years when other coaching spots have opened up. Two years ago it was Arkansas and UCLA. Last year there were reports Tennessee might be interested and he traveled to Washington during contentious contract extension negotiations when the school was looking for a new coach. □



Plunge into our turquoise ocean for the New Year!

Unox Nieuwjaarsduik' at MooMba Beach will be a televised affair

MOOMBA BEACH - Freezing cold water, lots of shivering bodies and shattering teeth hurting from the cold: nothing of the above is expected to happen to you when you join the Unox Nieuwjaarsduik (New Year's plunge), held at MooMba Beach on January 1st. On Aruba the water temperature is lovely, the sun is shining and guiding in the New Year with a plunge into the ocean is no hardship at all. So why not join the fun and the many people who are going to jump into the turquoise water, joining the thousands upon thousands others who are doing the same all over the world, but then in conditions one would not enjoy at all!

This first MooMba Unox Nieuwjaarsduik has an added benefit: not only do you get rid of any hangover you might have from partying till early morning on the 31st, you get a bowl of Unox Erwtensoeep with sausage as well. This Dutch traditional pea soup will heat you up after your plunge and it will have you in terrific shape for more partying in no time flat.

One more thing: the Nieuwjaarsduik will be filmed by ATV, one of the local television stations and shots of the plunge will be sent to Holland and who knows, to other countries as well. So if you want to make everyone at home sick with jealousy when they see your lovely, toned, bronzed body, come to MooMba Beach on January 1. At noon, 12 o'clock sharp, the signal for the plunge is given and swimmers will be racing off towards the ocean seeking eternal fame. □

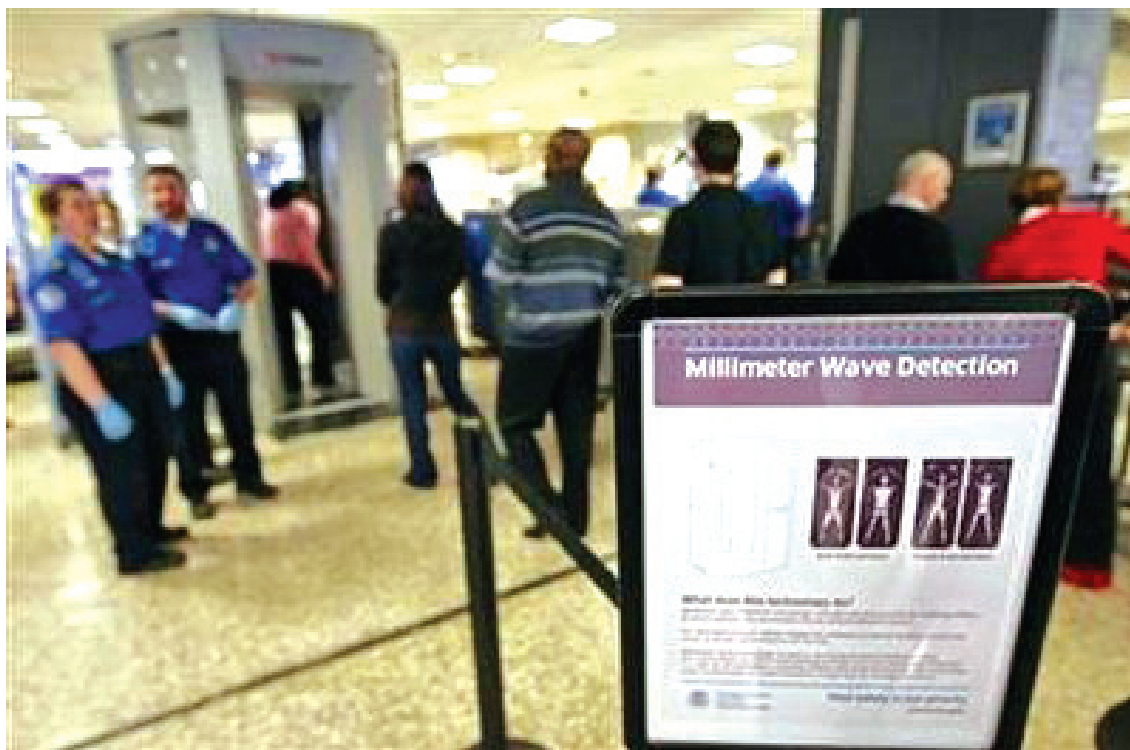
Dutch to use full body scanners for US flights

By MIKE CORDER and ARTHUR MAX, Associated Press Writers

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - The Netherlands announced Wednesday it will immediately begin using full body scanners for flights heading to the United States, saying that could have stopped the attempted Christmas Day airline bombing.

Nigeria echoed the move, with civil aviation authorities in Lagos saying they will buy full body scanners and hope to begin installing them next year.

The U.S. had not wanted these scanners to be used previously because of privacy concerns but now the Obama administration agreed that "all possible measures will be used on flights to the U.S.," Dutch Interior Minister Guusje Ter Horst told a news conference. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab boarded Northwest Airlines Flight 253 to Detroit from Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on Friday carrying undetected explosives, law enforcement authorities said, adding that 23-year-old Nigerian tried but failed to blow up the plane carrying 289 people.



A sign explains the procedure for going through the whole body scan machine, or millimeter wave machine as passengers wait in line at a security check point at the Salt Lake International Airport in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 10, 2009.

"It is not exaggerating to say the world has escaped a disaster," Ter Horst said, calling the situation a "professional" al-Qaida terror attack.

A key European legislator urged the European Union to begin rapidly installing the new equipment across the 27-nation bloc, but no other European nations immediately followed the Dutch move.

"Schiphol Airport does not need the United States' permission to screen above and beyond ICAO standards. We of course support advanced imaging technology, as we use it here," said Homeland Security spokeswoman Amy Kudwa in Washington. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano spoke Tuesday to the Dutch justice

minister on the subject, she said.

Body scanners that peer underneath clothing have been available for years, but privacy advocates say they are a "virtual strip search" because they display an image of the body onto a computer screen.

Continued on Pag B11

On a flight from Aruba to Boston

JetBlue plane makes emergency landing in Bermuda



HAMILTON, Bermuda, Dec 30 (Reuters) - A JetBlue Airways Corp (JBLU.O) passenger jet on a flight from Aruba to Boston made a precautionary emergency landing in Bermuda on Tuesday after a cockpit light indicated possible smoke in a rear

cargo bin, an airline spokesperson said on Wednesday. Flight 774 from Aruba to Boston, an Airbus A320 carrying 63 passengers, diverted to the Atlantic island as a precaution due to the "maintenance issue," JetBlue spokesperson Alison Croyle said in a statement sent to Reuters.

"An indication light in the cockpit came on suggestive of possible smoke in the aft cargo bin," Croyle said.

She denied an earlier report by Bermuda's Royal Gazette newspaper, which quoted a local Bermuda fire service officer as saying the pilot of the plane had told the control tower smoke was detected in the cockpit coming from the flight controls.

"There was not smoke in the cockpit at any time," Croyle said. She added that after the plane landed safely, a maintenance inspection cleared the aircraft and it later continued on its flight to Boston.

The Royal Gazette said the airport deployed fire trucks and an ambulance for the landing. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of **Driftwood Fishing Charters**, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant **Driftwood** in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.



At Occidental Grand

Amanda & Todd celebrate their love at Sunset



OCCIDENTAL – This week Amanda & Todd Maupin were married on the beach at the Occidental Grand this week and are celebrating their honeymoon on the island of Aruba. The ceremony was officiated by Reverend Robert Gibson followed by a romantic dinner on the beach. The lovebirds love Aruba and plan to return over and over again. Amanda & Todd Maupin chose Aruba because it was out of the Hurricane belt and

they knew a few people who have visited and raved about the island.

The photo shoot took place at the Occidental Grand Resort alongside the Caribbean ocean. Wedding Coordinator Kimberly Dammerman orchestrated the enchanted evening to the last detail of perfection and photography by Bella Aruba Photography. Congratulations from Occidental Grand and Aruba Today!!!

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~





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A bubbly toast to the New Year at De Suikertuin



ORANJESTAD - De Suikertuin welcomes the year 2010 with a 15-liter bottle of Nicolas Feuillatte Brut champagne.

A giant, 15-liter bottle of Nicolas Feuillatte Brut, called the Nabuchodonosor, will be the guest of honor at De Suikertuin Restaurant in the Wilhelminastraat on December 31. The bottle, named after the variant of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylonia (562 BC), is huge: if you wish to pour a glass, several persons will need to hold it up before the finely bubbled liquid comes out.

Special guests have been invited for this ringing in the year 2010 at De Suikertuin: regulars and friends will drink a toast with a glass of this smooth, pleasant and perfectly balanced Brut, which has matured for three years. As drinking Champagne is becoming a hot, hip and trendy

thing to do, De Suikertuin and the Arion Wine Company, representative of Nicolas Feuillatte on the island, have teamed up to start off the new year in this special way. Champagne is drunk these days as an aperitif as well as for accompanying a meal. Or just for fun, of course.

Nicolas Feuillatte is a relatively young brand of champagne: its first bottle was produced in 1978. But it rapidly gained fame, and nowadays it is listed among the best and best-known champagnes in the world. It is served in the White House in Washington as well as on Air France flights.

The reception at De Suikertuin won't be as formal as the one in the White House, we expect, but just as much fun. For De Suikertuin it is the perfect way to say goodbye



to 2009 and to say welcome to 2010. Cheers!

Photos show De Suikertuin's

Willeke Volgers, Arion Wine Company's Reinhard Eman and Govert van der Hout as well as De Suikertuin's

Gaston Verlaan busy carrying the giant, 15-liter bottle of Nicolas Feuillatte Champagne inside the restaurant. □

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The Zamore Dynasty is back for their 20th New Year's in Aruba



ORANJESTAD - In 1989, Irwin and Elaine Zamore joined her sister Beverly for a week in Aruba, as her sister had acquired timesharing at the Casa Del Mar, and now wanted to share her discovery of Aruba with those she loved. The couple, from Hastings on Hudson, New York, were just as taken with "One Happy Island," and decided to invest in a new facility just breaking ground (physically and metaphorically) in Oranjestad, known as Harbourtown.

"People often ask us why we choose to purchase in

town," recalls Irwin "it was considered so daring by some, away from the beach, which is what brings most people to Aruba, but we love it. We can walk to everything that interests us, the town is lively when we want it, but we have the quiet retreat of the lovely beach they made here, and the price was unbeatable. What can I say? They made me an offer I couldn't refuse."

Eventually, Harbourtown was "rescued" by Meta Corp and operated under the Sonesta brand, then became the Beach Suites at the Renaissance. "They have done a great job in maintaining and improving the facility," asserts Elaine, "we couldn't be happier about what they have done to the property and surroundings."

Twenty years of greeting the New Year in Aruba has resulted in changes in the Zamore family, which has now swelled to 16 spending the holidays in Aruba, and the purchase of 18 weeks of timesharing by the Zamores to accommodate their three children with spouses and

families.

Their daughter Rochelle married Joshua Waldman, and they have come with their children Sydney and the twins, Jessica and Corey. Lynda married Jeffrey Kruman, and their children, Alyssa and Max, love to spend the holiday with Grandma and Grandpa and all their cousins around the pool deck. Their son Barry and his wife Amy always come with their 3 children, Scott, Zachary and Andrew, making it one BIG, happy, Zamore gathering at the end of the year.

Add to that the strong bond they have formed with other owners such as best buddies Jed Blick, Lester Morowitz, Lenny Lesk and their clans, and you have an army of devoted friends and family taking over the Renaissance pool deck at the end of every year. "Even though we already own 18 weeks, we are in the market for more, so we can be sure we always have a place for the kids to stay and we can all be together in our favorite place at holiday time," expressed



Harold and Elaine. "Our time on Aruba with friends we have made among the fellow owners, Renaissance staff and others we have come to know

from the island always makes our holidays perfect. Being with people you love in such a perfect place is what it's all about, right?" □

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Starting 1 February 2010

KLM resumes Aruba flights

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines resumes its service between Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and Aruba Airport Reina Beatrix on 1 February 2010. The twice weekly service will be operated in combination with the existing Curaçao service. KLM has decided to resume flights between Amsterdam and Aruba in response to growing demand on this route. The service will be operated using Boeing 747-400 equipment. Both KLM and Martinair operate

services to this destination. "We have seen that customers would like the option of a business class product on flights to and from Aruba. To meet the different demands of our passengers we will operate KLM flights alongside the Martinair service on this route," explains Peter Hartman, KLM

President & CEO. The flight, number KL0783, will depart from Amsterdam on Mondays and Thursdays

at 09:35 hours and will arrive in Aruba at 14.15 hours on the same day. The return flight with the same flight number will depart from Aruba on Mondays and Thursdays at 15:25 hours, arriving in Amsterdam the next day at 08:00 hours. □



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END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

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Aruba goes off with DJ Tiesto

World's number #1 DJ electrifies Aruba



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

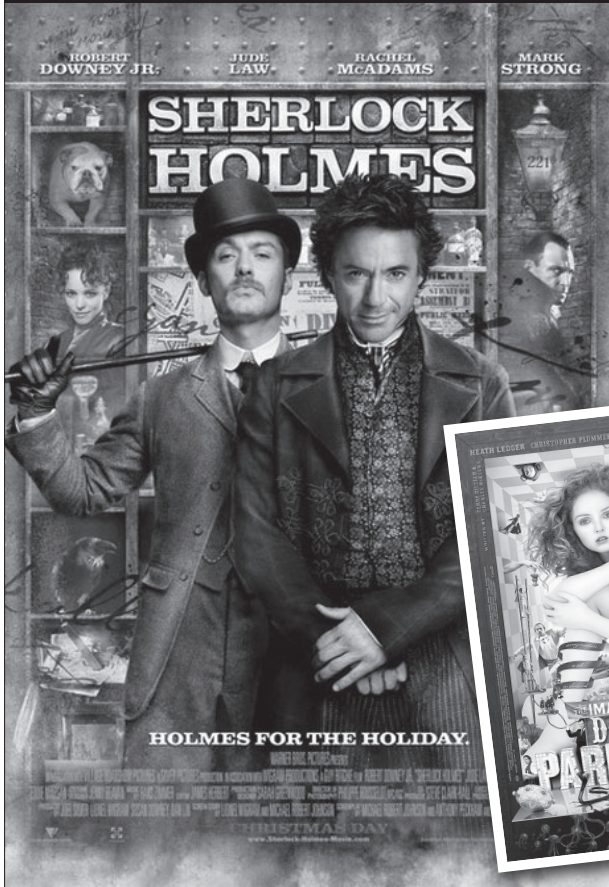
HAVANA BEACH - Tijs performed live last Saturday the beach to enjoy the latest from Tiesto's studio album called Kaleidoscope. A great night at Havana Beach. Thousands of fans packed



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*matinee: saturday & sunday | late show: saturday only

AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

R	THE MAN WHO STARE AT GOATS	daily: 4.30 matinee: 12.00	6.45 2.15	9.00 late show: 11.00	NEW
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 4.45 matinee: 12.15	7.00 2.30		
PG-13	THE BLIND SIDE	daily: 4.00 matinee: 1.15	6.45 late show: 12.00	9.30	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 4.00 matinee: 12.00	6.00 2.00		
PG	OLD DOGS	daily: 4.15 matinee: 12.15	6.15 2.15	8.15 late show: 12.15	
PG-13	2012	daily: 8.00 late show: 11.15			
PG	NINJA ASSASSIN	daily: 9.15 late show: 11.30			
PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily: 4.30 matinee: 1.15	7.45 late show: 11.00		3D

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS	daily: 6.00 matinee: 12.45	8.45 3.30	late show: 11.30	NEW
PG-13	SHERLOCK HOLMES	daily: 5.30 matinee: 2.30	8.30 late show: 11.30		NEW
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 4.00 matinee: 12.00	6.00 2.00		
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 4.30 matinee: 12.00	2.15		
PG-13	2012	daily: 8.00 late show: 11.15			
PG-13	DID YOY HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS	daily: 5.00 matinee: 12.30	2.45		
PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily: 4.45 matinee: 1.30	8.00 late show: 11.15		3D
R	ARMORED	daily: 7.30 late show: 11.30	9.30		
G	TERUG NAAR DE KUST	daily: 6.45 late show: 11.45	9.15		



Photo by Julia Renfro



thanks to I LOVE MUZIKA for orchestrating the event for everyone to enjoy.

Just after releasing his second studio album *Just Be* in 2004, at the Summer Olympics he performed live at the opening ceremony in Athens, Greece, becoming the first DJ to play live on stage at an Olympics Games. Tracks he made especially for the Olympics were mixed together

and released as the mix compilation *Parade of the Athletes* later that year. He was appointed Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau in 2004 by Queen Beatrix. He was chosen as the official ambassador for the Dance4Life foundation in May 2006, and released the song "Dance4Life" with Maxi Jazz to help spread the awareness of HIV/AIDS. In April 2007 Tiësto launched both

his radio show *Tiësto's Club Life* on Radio 538 in the Netherlands and released his third studio album titled *Elements of Life*. The album reached number one on the Dutch album chart as well on "Billboard Top Electronic Albums" in the U.S. and received a nomination for a Grammy Award in 2008.[7] Tiësto released his fourth studio album called *Kaleidoscope* in October 2009. □



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant

Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarllo, owner of *Hostaria Da'Vittorio* and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like *sate* to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. "I simply love what



I do for a living," confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at www.pampamaruba.com. □

A Super Social Mixer

The Managers' Cocktail Party at the Radisson



PALM BEACH -- Cocktail parties are excellent at bringing people together and thus General Manager Rob Smith hosted his first managers' cocktail party this week at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa serving cocktails at Mira Solo Martini Bar paired with delicious hors d'oeuvres and tasty bites. The guest-list included resort guests and resort managers who mingled for an interactive and fluid – no pun intended – affair, while the massage therapists of Larimar spa provided stress relief to party goers in the form of free chair massages and the resort birds posed for pictures adding color

and flair. Guests were also offered raffle tickets for prizes and surprises ranging from complimentary facials at Larimar Spa to



dinner at Gilligan's Beach Bar & Grill also a gift from Tropical Wave, Colombian Emeralds International and De Palm Tours. □

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Photo by Diane Keijzer

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Holiday Cheer at Amazonia Churrascaria



PALM BEACH – The friendly Amazonia carvers and waiters spread holiday cheer this week as many locals and visitors celebrating the season with family members and friends, dropped in for delicious food,

free flowing libations and festive ambiance. The restaurant's decorations this year by visual specialist Greg Larmonie were creatively composed from tradition white lights and gold

tinsel, entwined with recycled tree branches for a dramatic, novel effect.

Amazonia Churrascaria, Aruba's first, authentic Brazilian Rodizio Steakhouse, that even vegetarians love – is gearing up for the restaurant's 10th anniversary. Almost one decade ago, the new concept caught literal fire as a troop of waiters armed with mega skewers started roaming the colorful and friendly new indoor, outdoor dining room introducing the fresh and novel concept of continuous dining to enthusiastic locals and visitors.

It was an instant success and Amazonia Churrascaria became a household name, a favorite place for family gatherings, celebrations or



just fantastic, much-enjoyed meals.

The restaurant gauchos continuously offer choice cuts of grilled beef, chicken, lamb, pork & sausage, seasoned to perfection and slow roasted over open flame.

The meat selections are accompanied by an extravagant forty-item, frequently changing salad bar where you can keep sampling until your beg for mercy, all for an inclusive price, excluding dessert and beverages. □



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New Year**

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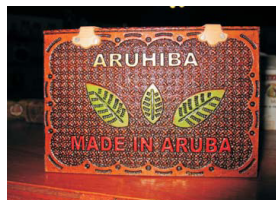
ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.



Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba".



Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



BUY & RECEIVE ONE ARUBAN CIGAR FREE WITH THIS FLYER



DUTCH BODY SCANNERS

Continued from Page B1

Ian Dowty, a lawyer with Action on Rights of the Child, said allowing minors to pass through the scanners violates child pornography laws.

“It shows genitalia,” he told The Associated Press. “As far as English law is concerned ... it’s unlawful if it’s indecent.”

For that reason, British authorities have exempted under-18s from body scan trials at places including Paddington Station in London as well as Heathrow and Manchester airports.

New software, however, eliminates that problem by projecting a stylized image rather than an actual picture onto a computer screen, highlighting the area of the body where objects are concealed in pockets or under the clothing.

Ter Horst said the scanners likely would have alerted security guards to the materials concealed in Abdulmutallab’s underwear and prevented him from boarding the Northwest flight. “Our view now is that the use of millimeter wave scanners would certainly have helped detect that he had something on his body, but you can never give 100 percent guarantees,” she said. In the preliminary report issued Wednesday, the Dutch government called the plan to blow up the Detroit-bound aircraft “professional” but said its execution was “amateurish.”

Ter Horst said Abdulmutallab apparently assembled the explosive device, including 80 grams of Pentrite, or PETN, in the aircraft toilet, then planned to detonate it with a syringe of chemicals. She said the explosives appeared to have been professionally prepared and had been given to Abdulmutallab, but did not elaborate.

“The approach in this case shows — despite the failure of the attack — a fairly professional approach,” the investigation summary stated. “Pentrite is a very powerful conventional explosive, which is not easy to produce yourself.”

“If you want to detonate it, you have to do that another way than he did. That is why we talk about amateurism,”

Ter Horst said.

Abdulmutallab arrived in Amsterdam on Friday from Lagos, Nigeria on a KLM flight. After a layover of less than three hours in the international departure hall, he passed through a security check at the gate in Amsterdam, including a hand baggage scan and a metal detector, and headed to the Northwest flight. He did not pass through a full-body scanner. Abdulmutallab was carrying a valid Nigerian passport and had a valid U.S. visa, the Dutch said. His name also did not appear on any Dutch list of terror suspects.

“No suspicious matters which would give reason to classify the person involved as a high-risk passenger were identified during the security check,” Ter Horst said.

Erik Ackerboom, head of the Dutch counterterrorism bureau, dismissed suggestions that Abdulmutallab should have aroused suspicion when he paid for a round-trip ticket from Lagos to Detroit in cash and had no check-in luggage. Paying cash in Africa is not unusual, he said, and the lack of a checked suitcase “wasn’t a reason for alarm.”

Abdulmutallab, charged with trying to destroy an aircraft, is being held at the federal prison in Milan, Michigan.

Amsterdam’s Schiphol has 15 body scanners, each costing more than \$200,000. But until now neither the European Union nor the U.S. have approved the routine use of the scanners at European airports.

At least two scanners in Amsterdam have been experimentally using the less-invasive software since late November and the Dutch said those will be put into use immediately. All other scanners will be upgraded within three weeks, they said. But the 15 available scanners will not begin to cover all of the U.S.-bound flights from Amsterdam, and passengers at gates without one will be patted down. Schiphol Airport, one of Europe’s largest, has nearly 100 gates.

President Barack Obama has demanded a preliminary report by Thursday from U.S. security authorities on what went wrong in the Detroit airliner case. Obama said the intelligence community should have been able to piece together information that would have raised “red flags” and possibly prevented Abdulmutallab from boarding the airliner.

“There was a mix of human and systemic failures that contributed to this potential catastrophic breach of security,” Obama said in Hawaii, calling the intelligence shortcomings “totally unacceptable.”

Abdulmutallab had been placed in one expansive database, but he never made it onto more restrictive lists that would have caught the attention of U.S. counterterrorist screeners, despite his father’s warnings to U.S. Embassy officials in Nigeria last month. Those warnings also did not result in Abdulmutallab’s U.S. visa

being revoked.

In the U.S., 40 of the full-body scanners are being operated in at least 19 U.S. airports.

Six U.S. airports are using one machine for primary screenings: Albuquerque, N.M.; Las Vegas; Miami; San Francisco; Salt Lake City; and Tulsa, Okla. Passengers go through the scans instead of a metal detector, although they can elect to receive a pat-down search from a security officer instead.

The rest of the machines are being used at 13 U.S. airports for secondary screenings of passengers who set off a metal detector. But those travelers can also opt for a pat-down instead. In the U.S. Congress, the House voted 310-118 last June to prohibit the use of whole-body imaging for primary screening for privacy concerns. The measure, still pending in the Senate, would limit the use of the devices to secondary screening.

Last year the European Parliament overwhelmingly voted against using the scanners and called for further study, allowing Schiphol to conduct a pilot test of the scanners on European flights. But opposition faded Wednesday when a key assembly member said the newest types “pose no privacy risk.” Peter van Dalen, vice-chairman of the EU assembly’s transport committee, said a recent demonstration at Schiphol erased any doubts that the equipment violates passengers’ privacy.

Still, a Dutch digital rights group, Bits of Freedom, called the decision to introduce the scanners on such short notice a fear-driven overreaction.

“The chance of someone being a victim of a terrorist attack in the air is a lot smaller than the chance of being struck by lightning,” the group wrote in an open letter to the Dutch Justice Ministry.

Philip Baum, editor of Aviation Security International, said scanners will still not catch material carried internally, a common smuggling method for drug traffickers.

“Once again, we’re looking for a quick-fix piece of technology when we ought be using the best piece of technology there is — the human brain,” he said. “We ought to be profiling people.”

Meanwhile, officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday that a man tried to board a commercial airliner in the Somali capital of Mogadishu last month carrying powdered chemicals, liquid and a syringe in a case bearing chilling similarities to the Detroit airliner plot. The Somali man — whose name has not yet been released — was arrested by African Union peacekeeping troops before the Nov. 13 Daallo Airlines flight took off. It had been scheduled to travel from Mogadishu to the northern Somali city of Hargeisa, then to Djibouti and Dubai. A Somali police spokesman, Abdulahi Hassan Barise, said the suspect is in Somali custody. □



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Boliviano Morales dice EEUU usa comercio como "venganza"

LA PAZ (Reuters) - El presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales, calificó como "venganza política" a la decisión de Estados Unidos de excluir por segundo año consecutivo al país sudamericano de un programa de beneficios comerciales ligado a la lucha antidrogas, reportaron el miércoles medios locales.

Morales hizo las declaraciones el martes, horas después de que se confirmara que el presidente Barack Obama firmara una ley que extiende por un año, hasta fines del 2010, un régimen de liberación de impuestos estadounidense para 131 países y otro específico para los países andinos, excepto Bolivia.

Bolivia ya estuvo excluida en el 2009 del incentivo arancelario conocido por su sigla en inglés ATPDEA, tras duros choques entre La Paz y Washington que incluyeron una expulsión mutua de embajadores y el

cese de las operaciones de la agencia antidrogas DEA en territorio boliviano ordenado por Morales.

El presidente indígena afirmó, según fue citado por los diarios La Prensa y La Razón, que la ratificación de la exclusión de Bolivia del ATPDEA es "una venganza política" de Washington, por la dura posición "anti imperialista" y la política de estatización económica emprendida por Bolivia.

"Algunos países como Estados Unidos no quieren entender las políticas que se aplican en Bolivia", dijo el izquierdista Morales ante una concentración campesina en el departamento central de Cochabamba.

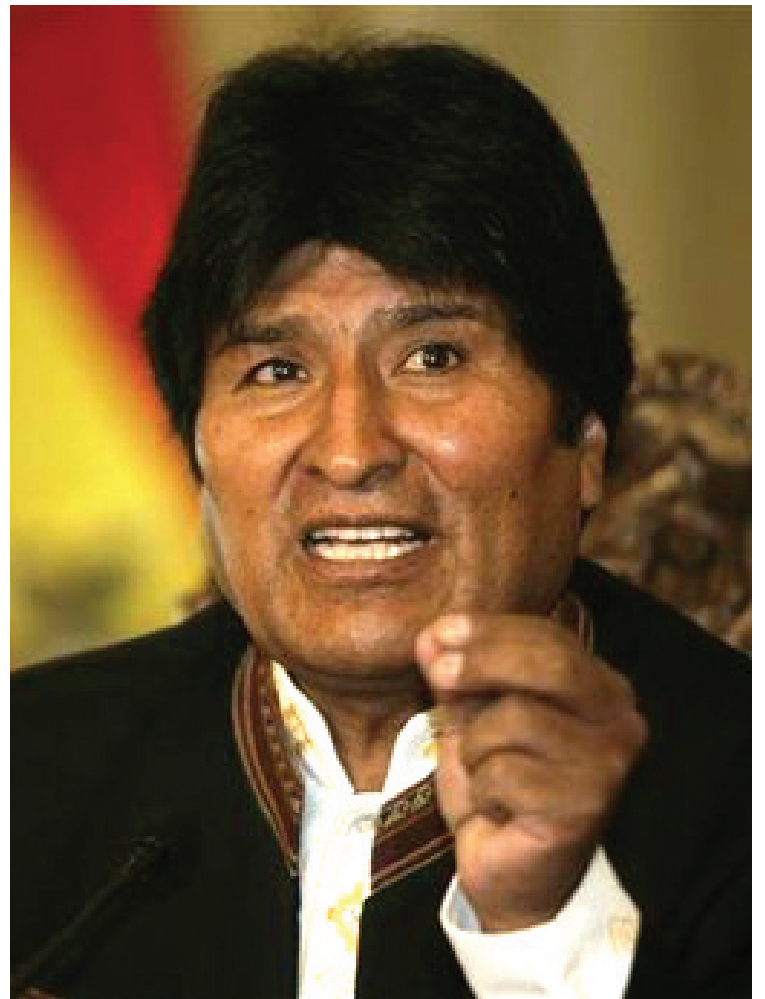
El presidente boliviano, un estrecho aliado de su par venezolano Hugo Chávez, dijo que no entendía "cómo un excluido negro (Obama) puede excluir a un indio excluido".

"Que quede para la historia y

los pueblos (que) nos juzgarán, pero eso no me asusta y más bien nos fortalece mucho más", agregó, asegurando que Bolivia había logrado ya compensar con creces en Venezuela y Brasil la pérdida parcial de su cuota del mercado estadounidense.

Obama, según una declaración divulgada el miércoles por la embajada estadounidense en La Paz, dijo que "Estados Unidos y Bolivia necesitan trabajar estrechamente para mejorar la cooperación con respecto a nuestro objetivo común de combatir la producción y el tráfico de narcóticos ilícitos".

"Estoy instruyendo a mi administración para que trabaje con el Gobierno de Bolivia con el fin de mejorar la cooperación y, si así fuera, mi Gobierno trabajará con el Congreso para restaurar los beneficios a Bolivia bajo el programa (ATPDEA)", anunció el mandatario norteamericano. □



El presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales (foto), calificó como 'venganza política' a la decisión de Estados Unidos de excluir por segundo año consecutivo al país sudamericano de un programa de beneficios comerciales ligado a la lucha antidrogas, reportaron el miércoles medios locales. REUTERS/Gaston Brito

¿Se avecina otra década perdida en América Latina?

Uno de cada cuatro latinoamericanos que durante los últimos 17 años lograron salir de la pobreza cayeron otra vez en desgracia por el coletazo global de 2008 y América Latina terminará este año con nueve millones de pobres más, mientras la cifra sigue aumentando aunque ya pasó lo peor de la recesión.

Quienes habían logrado ingresar a la clase media — especialmente en Chile, Brasil, México, Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia y Perú — fueron los primeros damnificados y serán los últimos en recuperarse cuando la región vuelva a crecer.

La incidencia de pobreza en la región había bajado, sobre todo entre 2002 y 2008, pero el frenazo económico mundial con el estallido de la crisis en Estados Unidos en septiembre de 2008 interrumpió y revirtió una dinámica de avances sociales que vivía América Latina desde 1992.

Según la Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE), el Producto Interno Bruto de América Latina se contraerá 3,6% en 2009.

¿Estará la región en los albores de una nueva década perdida, como la de 1980, caracterizada por el endeudamiento?

Latinoamérica había corregido sus políticas y el crecimiento del PIB llegó a 5,4% durante 2004-2008. El gasto social pasó de 12,2% del PIB en 1990

al 17,3% en 2007.

Según la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (Cepal), la región cerró en el tercer trimestre de 2008 un periodo de crecimiento económico acelerado, su ciclo de expansión económica más importante desde 1970. Dijo que entre 2000 y 2008 el desempleo cayó del 11,4% al 7,5% y que la pobreza bajó del 44% al 33% en 17 países latinoamericanos analizados.

En los seis años previos a la crisis global, los pobres en América Latina bajaron en 41 millones, pero la recesión que estalló hace 15 meses apagó el motor del crecimiento y el combate a la pobreza.

La Cepal proyecta que al terminar 2009 habrá nueve millones más de latinoamericanos pobres, de los cuales cinco millones estarán en el nivel de indigencia, viviendo con menos de un dólar al día. Estima que al acabar el año, la región acumulará 189 millones de pobres, de los cuales 76 millones serán indigentes.

En porcentajes, los latinoamericanos más desvalidos pasarán de 2008 a 2009 del 33% de la población total al 34,1% y los indigentes aumentarán del 12,9% al 13,7%, según la Cepal.

Con todo, hay buenas noticias: América Latina ha pasado por descabros mucho peores y está en

buena posición para enfrentar una crisis, pues ahora maneja más responsablemente sus finanzas públicas que antes.

La recesión no trajo procesos inflacionarios ni colapsos fiscales o financieros, a diferencia de la crisis de la deuda de los años 80, pero el gasto social de la región no seguirá expandiéndose a una tasa tan alta como en 1990-2008, estima la Cepal. □

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Peruanos quemarán muñecos de presidenta chilena en fin de año

LIMA (Reuters) - Cientos de peruanos despedirán el 2009 quemando muñecos de cartón que representan a la presidenta chilena, Michelle Bachelet, que estuvieron entre los más solicitados el martes en un mercado limeño.

A la hoguera, como marca una de las tradiciones en el país andino para despedir el año que termina, también irá el militar peruano que supuestamente espía para Chile y llevó la relación entre los dos vecinos a su punto más bajo en años.

En algunos puestos del concurrido mercado capitalino resaltaban



Un vendedor muestra una imagen satírica de la presidenta chilena, Michelle Bachelet, lista para las fiestas de fin de año en las calles de Lima, dic 29 2009. Cientos de peruanos despedirán el 2009 quemando muñecos de cartón que representan a la presidenta chilena, Michelle Bachelet, que estuvieron entre los más solicitados el martes en un mercado limeño. REUTERS/Mariana Bazo

las filas de muñecos del supuesto espía vestido de presidiario, con un cartel que decía "traidor" y billetes pegados en su pecho.

También se veían muñecos de Bachelet con uniforme militar, casco y un letrero que leía "defendiendo mi Republicueta", en alusión al término utilizado por el presidente peruano, Alan García, cuando estalló el caso del supuesto espionaje militar a favor de Santiago



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